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To:	Attorney General
Phone	
Fax Phone	+1(202)6169937

From:	Victor Arean
	248 Punta Vista Dr.
	St. Petersburg Beach
	Florida 33706-2432
Phone	+1(727)360-1222
Fax Phone	+1(727)360-1222

NOTE:

Attn: Attorney General John Ashcroft

**248 Punta Vista Drive
St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706-2432**

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

The Federal District Court judge should approve the settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case. That would be the best thing for the American computer industry and the American economy.

Until six years ago, I worked in the computer industry, starting with college internships. I worked with IBM's OS/2 software, which was great for connectivity to IBM's mainframe and mid-level computers, but was able to run only the older, 16-bit Windows programs, not the newer 32-bit ones (Windows 95 and later). The salespeople refused to use OS/2 on their laptops, insisting on Windows. At the time, I purchased a home computer with Windows on it, and later decided to purchase the Microsoft Office Suite, because I thought it worked better than the Lotus Smart Suite and other similar products.

There have been complaints made about Microsoft that are reflected in the antitrust litigation. For example, people have said that Microsoft's knowledge of the internal software code interfaces of its Windows operating system allowed its application programming division to have an inside track to building better programs, like Microsoft Office. Under the settlement, Microsoft will have to document and disclose the Windows internal interfaces. IBM never disclosed the internal interfaces of its operating systems in eighteen years of antitrust litigation. Top software engineering experts will monitor the agreement for five years to ensure that it is complied with, and investigate complaints. The other terms also require Microsoft to cooperate with its competitor, open up its software code, and introduce more flexibility into its business practices. The settlement resolves concerns and is good for the American computer industry.

Thank you for your support of the settlement.

Sincerely,

Victor M. Arean